



Final Report: *IGNITION*
May 17-June 16, 2012
Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery

galerie **leonard
& bina
ellen**
art gallery

IGNITION

May 18 to June 16, 2012

Velibor Božović, Marie-Pier Breton, Chun Hua Catherine Dong, Joanne Joe Yan Hui,
Jenna Dawn Maclellan, Wren Noble, and James Whitman with Barry Doupé



Installation view of *Ignition*, Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery
Photo: Paul Litherland

EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING YEAR 2011-2012

Exhibition Title: *IGNITION* (8th edition)

Projects selected by: Véronique Leblanc and Michèle Thériault

Exhibition Dates: May 17-June 16, 2012

Opening: May 17, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

Now in its 8th edition, *IGNITION* is an annual exhibition featuring recent work by students in Concordia University's graduate Studio Arts program, and, for the first time, the Humanities doctoral program. With *IGNITION*, the Ellen Gallery gives students the possibility to show their work in a professional context, while offering the public the opportunity to discover a selection of Montreal's up-and-coming artists. Working in a variety of media, this year's artists engaged with questions and narratives of social, cultural, and/or political relevance in artworks that bridged documentary and fiction, the personal and the relational, performance and embodied experience.

Marie-Pier Breton uses the deceptively simple image of an old man and woman on a dance floor to reflect on the universal themes of aging, death, and the passing of time in her cinematic work *in limbo*. More in the documentary vein, Wren Noble's *Madame, Monsieur* portrays an elderly couple who, as their faculties diminish, dress in matching colourful outfits, destabilizing conventional expectations around gender performativity and old age. With reference to the Bosnian War of the 1990s, Velibor Božović's video installation *My Prisoner* is a haunting, philosophic exploration of memory's malleability, raising questions about how we remember the past and if we can know what is real.

Chun Hua Catherine Dong boldly overturns exoticising fantasies of the "submissive" Asian female as well as politically correct conceptions of multiculturalism and tolerance in her performance-based work *The Husbands and I*. Combining image and text, Joanne Joe Yan Hui's *Expo Daily* delves into the 2010 Shanghai World Exposition as a vector for official notions of nationalism in juxtaposition with more subjective, autobiographical expressions of transnational identity. The result of a recent visit to Cuba, Jenna Dawn MacLellan's *a study in greyscale* invited Cubans to consider their relationship to globalisation while being photographed with a pinhole camera.

James Whitman and Barry Doupé's musical body of work *Adorno and Nose* pays tribute to their joint creative process, one that embraces back-and-forth strategies of play, flexibility, and digression. Whitman presented selections of these collaborative compositions during the *IGNITION* opening on May 17.

BIOGRAPHIES

Velibor Božović

Velibor grew up in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. While he was in his 20's the country of his youth became a war zone and he spent the war siege of Sarajevo sharpening his survival skills. In 1999, Velibor moved to Montreal where, for 8 years, he worked as an engineer in aerospace industry, until he gave up his engineering career and became a photographer. He has exhibited in Cuba, Canada, the USA, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He holds a BFA in photography from Concordia University, is recipient of Gabor Szilasi Prize and Roloff Beny Fellowship, and currently is attending MFA program in Studio arts.

Marie-Pier Breton

Marie-Pier Breton was born in 1985 in the Eastern Townships. She is a time-based artist whose work, informed by contemporary portraiture, generally deals with identity and vulnerability. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in French literature from Université de Sherbrooke (2008) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography from Concordia University (2011).

Chun Chua Catherine Dong

Chun Chua Catherine Dong is a performance artist born in China and living in Canada. In her art practice, she is interested in blurring boundaries between personal and political, between private and public, between art and life, between performance and everyday practice. Her current research interests focuses on how a practice of contemporary performance art addresses the everyday performance of identity, and how strategic, essentialized performance of identity redefines the interconnected concepts of public and private self, gender, and power. She has a BFA degree from Emily Carr University of Art and Design and is currently doing her MFA degree in Studio Arts at Concordia University.

Joanne Joe Yan Hui

Joanne Hui is a visual artist and fifth year doctoral student at Concordia University (Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, Doctorate in Humanities and Philosophy). Her research investigates concepts of identity in comic art, in terms of culturally-specific and historical conditions of migration. Recent works include *Shanghai Daily* (2008), a graphic novel travel collage, and *The Potato Wars: Chinese-Canadian Resistance during the Exclusion Era*, a comic poster that was purchased by the Canada Council Art Bank and further selected for inclusion in the exhibition *DIASPORArt: Strategy and Seduction by Canadian Artists from Culturally Diverse Communities*.

jenna dawn maclellan

jenna dawn maclellan was born in the prairies and raised in the community of Sioux Lookout. She relocated to France, Chicago, Morocco, and West Africa before becoming a Montréal-based artist. Location, accessibility, and personal encounters have largely influenced her socially-engaged practice, with recent performative works including *nord/sud* and *how to move a mountain*. She is a recipient of SSHRC funding and is currently pursuing an MFA at Concordia University.

Wren Noble

A San Francisco native, Wren began her career working in film. After completing her BFA in Film Production at NYU, she worked as Camera Operator and began working more extensively with still photography. In 2009, she became producer of the New York-based non-profit Slideluck Potshow, traveling North America and Europe to curate and produce photography shows. In late 2010, she moved to Montreal to pursue her Master's Degree at Concordia University and further develop her personal artistic practice.

James Whitman

James Whitman lives and works in Montreal, Quebec. He mostly makes drawings and sometimes other things. Over the years he's worked with such collaborators as 536, Jo

Cook, Owen Plummer, The Cartoon Wars, Barry Doupé, and the Lions. He has exhibited in artist-run centres and galleries throughout Canada and abroad.

Barry Doupé

Barry Doupé is a filmmaker living in Vancouver. He is also a member of The Lions collaborative drawing group, Jarry, and Crazy Weapon. His films have been screened throughout Canada and Internationally including the Ann Arbor Film Festival, the Anthology Film Archives, Lyon Contemporary Art Museum, Pleasure Dome, and the Tate Modern.

LIST OF WORKS

1. Velibor Božović

My Prisoner (2012)

Video

6:29

-

Search (2012)

Video

7:52

-

Text (2012)

2. Marie-Pier Breton

in limbo (2011)

Video

4:10

3. Chu Hua Catherine Dong

The Husbands and I (2009-2011)

Performance, video (15:30), digital prints, photo albums, curtains, bed, side tables, lamps

Photo : Ruth Skinner, Chad Durnford, Denise Gaudreault, Bernie Lee

Vidéo / Video : Sarah Hudson, Maksim Bentsianov, Karlo Melgarejo, Jerry Tai

4. Joanne Joe Yan Hui

Selection of drawings from *EXPO DAILY: a graphic travelogue of the 2010 World Exposition in Shanghai, China* (2012)

Watercolour and ink on paper

-

Expo Souvenir Passport Pages (2010)

Digital print on paper

-

The autotopography of my desk at the time of writing EXPO DAILY (2011)

India ink on Manga paper

-

Field notes from EXPO DAILY: a graphic travelogue of the 2010 World Exposition in

Shanghai, China (2012)
Posters (digital prints on paper)

5. Jenna Dawn Maclellan

photobooth (cabina de foto) (2011)
Pinhole camera with four lenses
(plywood, metal, felt, photo paper, bicycle inner-tube)

-

three colour cards (2011)
Acrylic paint on hardboard

-

the time it takes to take one photo (2011-2012)
Digital audio recording
2:43

-

a study in greyscale, green
a study in greyscale, red
a study in greyscale, yellow
a study in greyscale, red
a study in greyscale, red
a study in greyscale, green
Black and white pinhole portraits, Holguín, Cuba (2011)
Printed as digital c-prints (2012)

6. Wren Noble

Madame, Monsieur (2011)
13 Ink-jet prints

7. James Whitman with Barry Doupé

Adorno and Nose, 2011
Performance, sheet music for ten compositions for solo voice, lyrics, drawings

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

May 17 at 4:30 pm: Meet the Artists
The artists in *IGNITION* presented their individual projects and spoke about their respective practices.

May 17, 2012 at 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm: Performances
During the opening for *IGNITION*, James Whitman performed a selection of songs from his collaborative project *Adorno and Nose*. Chun Chua Catherine Dong also inaugurated a series of performances linked to her project *The Husbands and I*; her performances took place at fixed times during the exhibition.

May 26, 2012, 12 noon to 2 pm: *Comic Jam*
Within the framework of her project *Expo Daily*, Joanne Joe Yan Hui lead a drawing workshop where participants co-authored a series of comic pages.

PRESS REVIEW

Lesley De Marinis. "Ignition 8 features studio arts graduate students' works - Exhibition highlights age, culture and gender roles with series of photos, drawings and videos". *NOW magazine*, Concordia University (June 5, 2012).

"La une!", *Le vadrouilleur urbain* (May 14, 2012).

<http://levadrouilleururbain.wordpress.com/2012/05/14/exposition-ignition-8-galerieleonard-bina-ellen/>

"La une!", *Le vadrouilleur urbain*, May 22, 2012

Comic Jam avec Joanne Joe Yan Hui le samedi 26 mai 2012.

<http://levadrouilleururbain.wordpress.com/2012/05/22/ignition-comic-jam-avec-joannejoe-yan-hui-galerie-leonard-bina-ellen/>

ATTENDANCE: See Annex A for detailed breakdown

DOCUMENTATION:

Digital images (and video of James Whitman's performance) by Paul Litherland/Studio Lux, © Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery

ANNEX A

Attendance figures:

Exhibition Dates: May 18 to June 16, 2012

Number of days open to the public:

22

Total exhibition attendance (including events):

938

Total exhibition attendance (excluding events):

740

Events

Thursday May 17, 4:30 pm

TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION + OPENING

185

(with the artists and curators Michèle Thériault and Véronique Leblanc)

Saturday May 26, 12:00 to 2:00 pm

13

COMIC JAM with JOANNE JOE YAN HUI

Total event attendance

198

Tours

BOOKED TOURS: NOT OFFERED

BILINGUAL WALK-IN TOURS: NOT OFFERED.

Printed Matter

***Pistes de réflexion* leaflets distributed**

180

***Ways of Thinking* leaflets distributed**

230